

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for the online diagnosis and repair of computer hardware and software are provided. According to a method of the present invention, a client application and executable program scripts are downloaded to a computer to be diagnosed. The client application executes the scripts, and returns information obtained as a result of executing those scripts to a server. The server then applies a rules based analysis to the returned information, and provides a disposition to the computer to be diagnosed. The disposition may include information regarding a potential remedy for the detected problem or problems, or may include provisions to automatically effect a repair. According to one embodiment, the operation of the client application is coordinated with information communicated using a browser by polling a field provided in a database maintained at the server. According to a further embodiment, a client computer is directed to the exact universal resource location at which information or a file needed to effect a repair can be found.